

# News Release

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## **Riverside Public Utilities Direct Install Programs Benefitting Small Business Customers**

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**Riverside, Calif.** – As economic factors continue to make running a business challenging, small business customers of Riverside Public Utilities are taking advantage of free direct installation programs that help increase their water and energy efficiency, and lower their utility bills.

For more than a decade, Riverside Public Utilities has offered a variety of programs and services to assist its large and small commercial customers alike. The programs, funded by public benefits monies, are both beneficial to the businesses and help the utility meet state mandated goals for energy and water use efficiency.

While smaller flat-rate business customers, like those with an average electrical demand below 20 kilowatt hours (kWh), have shown interest in participating in RPU efficiency programs in the past, factors such as time, staffing constraints, and cash flows haven't allowed them to participate.

With the creation of the Small Business Energy and Water Efficiency Direct Install Program (SBDI) last February, the utility has made it easier for its smaller commercial customers to take advantage of these programs. Through its contracted vendor, RPU will conduct energy and water surveys to determine how the business could be more efficient.

Once completed, the vendors are authorized to provide up to \$1,000 in energy upgrades and \$500 in water efficiency upgrades per qualified business. Services have included lighting retrofits, HVAC system tune-ups, high efficiency toilet replacements, and installations of faucet aerators, pre-rinse spray valves, and low-flow showerheads.

"So far we have assisted over 1,000 small businesses with this program," said RPU's Assistant General Manager for Customer Relations/Marketing Mike Bacich. "The energy retrofits alone over the past year have provided nearly 5 million kilowatt hours of savings."

In addition to the SBDI program, the utility's "Keep Your Cool" program assists businesses like liquor stores, gas stations, and markets by installing efficient motors, replacement gaskets, and LED case lighting in large walk-in coolers. Working with their vendor Blue Earth, RPU has assisted about 40 customers with this co-pay program that assists with funding of 80 percent of the project's cost (up to \$7,500).

"Along with the electric rate freeze that is in effect through next January, programs like these are helping to keep our small business customers thriving," Bacich said. For information about available water and energy conservation rebate and incentive programs offered by RPU, visit [GreenRiverside.com](http://GreenRiverside.com) or contact the utility at (951) 826-5485.

For additional information about Riverside Public Utilities follow us on Facebook and on Twitter at #RPUNews

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Established in 1895, Riverside Public Utilities is a consumer-owned water and electric utility governed by a board of nine community volunteers that provides high quality, reliable services to over 106,000 metered electric customers and up to 64,000 metered water customers throughout the City of Riverside. The Utility is committed to increased use of renewable energy resources and sustainable living practices that help reduce environmental impacts within the City of Riverside and the state of California.

[www.RiversidePublicUtilities.com](http://www.RiversidePublicUtilities.com)

[www.GreenRiverside.com](http://www.GreenRiverside.com)

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